IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraphs [004], [011], [024] - [026], [042], [047], [048], [055], [067], [082], [095], and [097] as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and added terms are shown with underscoring.

Paragraph [004]

In this Japanese unexamined patent publication 2000-85524, the presence of the occupant on the seat is checked using an electric capacitance sensor. In this conventional method, since the electric capacitance sensor is disposed at an upper part of the seat back of the seat, the presence of the occupant cannot accurately be detected when the occupant is sitting at the side edge of the seat (the occupant is sitting away from the electric capacitance sensor). In this case, it is judged that there is no occupant on the seat.

Paragraph [011]

The side airbag unit includes an airbag to be deployed with respect to the sideward direction of the occupant sitting on a vehicle seat. The posture detector determines the posture of the occupant. The weight detector measures the weight of the occupant. The deployment controller controls the deployment of the airbag based on the posture checked by the posture detector and weight measured by the weight detector, of the occupant.

Paragraph [024]

This side airbag apparatus 4 deploys the airbag to the region between the occupant of the vehicle and the door of the vehicle when a load detector 5 detects the acceleration velocity of greater than a threshold value. In other words, the side airbag apparatus 4 deploys the airbag to the sideward direction with respect to the occupant when ~~a~~ the load detector 5 detects the acceleration velocity of greater than a threshold value.

Paragraph [025]

In this side airbag apparatus 4, an airbag in a folded condition is stored in a module case

4a, which is accommodated within the seat back 2a. The position, where the side airbag apparatus 4 is accommodated, is one side in the width direction of the seat 2.

Paragraph [026]

If the vehicle adopting the present invention's side airbag system ~~is provided in collision~~ collides with another vehicle and the load detector 5 detects the acceleration velocity of greater than a threshold value, the airbag is inflated by the gasses supplied from an inflator (not shown) stored in the module case 4a. Then, the inflated airbag bursts through a tear line (not shown) of the seat back 2a and deploys toward the inside of the vehicle cabin.

Paragraph [042]

In the present embodiment, for example, if the output from the first antenna disposed at the downside is relatively high, it is judged that the physique of the occupant sitting on the seat 2 is small. In other words, the output current entered from the first antennas 11e and 11f exceeds the output entered from another first antenna 11a - 11c, the detector 12b considers that the physique of the occupant sitting on the seat 2 is small.

Paragraph [047]

When the output from the second antenna electrode 11g exceeds the threshold value, on the other hand, the posture sensor controller 12 considers that the occupant is sitting at the door side of the seat 2, and categorizes the occupant's state as "LEANING".

Paragraph [048]

When all the outputs from the first antenna electrodes 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, and 11f exceeds the threshold value, furthermore, the posture sensor controller 12 considers that the occupant is sitting on the seat 2 at the usual state. Then, the posture sensor controller 12 categorizes the occupant's state as "NORMAL".

Paragraph [055]

In this sensor plate 22, the midpoint in the longitudinal direction thereof serves as a holding part 22a, and the both ends thereof serves as the end part 22b. In this sensor plate 22, since only the holding part 22a is fixed, ~~the~~ both end parts 22b of this sensor plate 22 ~~is~~ are allowed to move in the up-and-down directions.

Paragraph [067]

If the present state cannot be classified into ~~none~~ any of "EMPTY", "LOW", and "HIGH", the weight sensor controller 16 selects "FAULT".

Paragraph [082]

In this side airbag control unit 6, these operations from Step 1 through Step 13 are repeated at a short intervals.

Paragraph [095]

In the present invention, furthermore, if the head of the child is ~~positioning~~ positioned within the deployment area of airbag or if the occupant is leaning against the door side, the side airbag control unit 6 does not allow the deployment of the airbag.

Paragraph [097]

Although there have been disclosed what are the patent embodiment of the invention, it will be understood by person skilled in the art that variations and modifications may be made thereto without departing from the scope of the invention, which is indicated by the appended claims.